

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

M. ISHIZAWA et al

Serial No.

Filed: August 29, 2001

For: AUTOMATIC ANALYZER

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Rewrite claim 3 as follows.

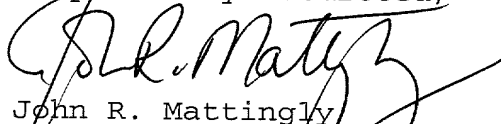
3. (Amended) An automatic analyzer according to claim 1, which further comprises means for detecting the surface of liquid in said first container, wherein said automatic analyzer moves said pipetting probe down to said preset position, temporarily stops said probe there, starts said liquid surface detecting means, and immerses said probe into the liquid while detecting the liquid surface.

2006-08-29 10:50:50

REMARKS

Examination is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Date: August 29, 2001

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**MARKED UP VERSION OF REWRITTEN CLAIMS**

3. (Amended) An automatic analyzer according to claim 1 [or 2], which further comprises means for detecting the surface of liquid in said first container, wherein said automatic analyzer moves said pipetting probe down to said preset position, temporarily stops said probe there, starts said liquid surface detecting means, and immerses said probe into the liquid while detecting the liquid surface.